



REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending as of the issuance of the instant Office Action. Claims 3, 5-10, and 22, which are drawn to non-elected subject matter, have been canceled without prejudice as to further prosecution of the subject matter in future related applications. Claims 1 and 13-15 were rejected. Claims 1 and 13-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejections set forth in the Office Action are rendered moot. Claims 2, 4, 11-12, and 14-20 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Action indicated these claims are allowable if rewritten to include limitations of the rejected base claim and intervening claims. The Action also indicated that claims 21 and 23 are allowable if rewritten as indicated. Claims 2, 4, 11-12, 14-20, 21, and 23 have been amended accordingly to place the Application in condition for allowance.

DRAWINGS

The Action requested that Applicants submit drawings. Applicants point out that 9 drawing sheets were submitted with the application when filed. To show that drawings were filed with the application, Applicants have enclosed copies of the Application Data Sheet (ADS) and the return postcard that were submitted with the application when filed. The ADS shows that 9 drawings were filed. The postcard shows that PCT Application WO 00/58295, which contained 63 pages (54 of specification and 9 drawings), was received by the Patent Office on September 27, 2001. Nevertheless, Applicants submit herewith copies of the filed drawings as requested in the instant Office Action.

PRIORITY

The specification has been amended to include the continuation information as indicated by the Office Action.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants respectfully contend that all conditions of patentability are met in the pending claims as amended. Allowance of the claims is thereby respectfully solicited.

If there are any questions or comments regarding this Response or application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative as indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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